

July/August 2015



The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

FAREWELL TO OUR CONSERVATION ANALYST

There is a saying that nothing is certain but change. Mack Casterman has served capably as East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst for nearly four years, so we should not be surprised that he has been recruited for a full-time position with a well-regarded environmental consulting firm in South Lake Tahoe. Our conservation analyst position was always conceived of as a launch pad for young professionals who would then apply our approach in the larger world. We will miss Mack's thoughtfulness, clear expression, collaboration, hard work, and energy. We all thank Mack, warmly wish him the very best, and know that he will indeed carry on and continue to make us proud.

The Conservation Committee has plenty of work ahead, and will be moving forward as quickly as possible to conduct a search for a new Conservation Analyst. If you—or anyone you know—would like to have the unparalleled experience of working with some of the most dedicated plant conservationists around, take a look at the job announcement at www.ebcnps.org. Applications will be accepted immediately and the position will remain open until filled.

Barbara Leitner and Jean Robertson

END OF SUMMER POTLUCK PICNIC!

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

**2ND ANNUAL
GOURMET GREENS AND BEASTS FEAST**

Padre Picnic Area, Tilden Regional Park

A potluck picnic and fun fest for members of CNPS and The Wildlife Society
Native (and nonnative) foods and beverages
Games, plant raffle, great company, fun for all ages!

Check the chapter website and September *Bay Leaf* for updates

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Knowland Park Update

We are officially into the summer season, and the Oakland Zoo has yet to begin construction of their proposed expansion in the highlands of Knowland Park (an expansion they claimed would begin in spring 2015). We are closely following new developments on this project and our work continues to educate the public about the wonderful natural resources that the park supports and the threat that the Zoo's expansion poses to those resources.

Last month the Zoo applied to the City of Oakland for a permit to kill 57 heritage oaks and other native trees in Knowland Park. Many more trees that don't require a permit to kill will be taken out if the project is allowed to move forward, and the Zoo acknowledges 481 could be impacted during the construction of its proposed development in Knowland Park. In June EBCNPS members joined the Oakland and Bay Area communities in opposing the removal of these heritage oak trees which the city itself is named after. We are hopeful that the City will take this as an opportunity to take a stand to protect its natural resources and to heed the voice of the public who own the land and the trees which are to be fenced off and bulldozed for the Zoo's proposed development.

Please visit <http://www.saveknowland.org/> for the most up to date information on this ongoing effort to preserve Oakland's finest wildland park.

Tesla Park Update

At the time of this issue's publication, EBCNPS and our allies, the Friends of Tesla Park will have submitted detailed comments for the Draft General Plan and its accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (CSVRA). This plan proposed to expand off-road vehicle access onto roughly 3,000 acres of wildland known as Tesla Park. EBCNPS worked closely with our vegetation committee to detail our botanical concerns and almost every environmental organization in the region also submitted comments on the plan. Comments were due on June 29th – thanks to all of you who helped and submitted comments during this process.

As it stands, the General Plan and DEIR are shockingly inadequate and in fact claim that there will be no significant impacts to biological resources as a result of opening these

3,000 acres to off road vehicle recreation. We are hopeful that our united environmental front will put pressure on State Parks to revise the plan in a way that properly considers the potential environmental damage of opening Tesla Park to off road vehicle recreation. We also are continuing our work to get State Parks to include an alternative in its plan that would identify Tesla as a wildlife preserve with only non-motorized recreation allowed on its trails.

Conservation Analyst Farewell

This will be my last Conservation Analyst Update. In June, I was offered the opportunity to join an environmental consulting firm in South Lake Tahoe, and I accepted the position.

My time with EBCNPS has been wonderful, and I admit that even with a generous offer from this new job, I struggled to finally make the decision to move on to this new opportunity. I am hopeful that my leaving will allow a new environmentalist the opportunity to learn as much as I did about the ins and outs of environmental advocacy in support of our precious native plant habitats. During the last four years, I learned more about native plants, advocacy, campaigning, politics, and environmental regulations than I had in my entire school and work experience before. The East Bay Conservation Analyst is a special position, and I am hopeful the next Conservation Analyst gains as much from it as I have.

I will miss the wonderful relationships I have built with our incredibly dedicated Conservation Committee, Board and our other dedicated volunteers that help make EBCNPS an environmental force here in the East Bay. I am looking forward to continuing to follow EBCNPS and CNPS issues in general, and I know that CNPS' strong conservation ethic will guide my actions throughout my future career endeavors.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of you who have supported my position, either through your time and effort as an active Conservation Committee member, or through your generous donations toward the Conservation Analyst Fund. It is because of you that this position exists and because of you that EBCNPS is such an environmental force in our area. Without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mack Casterman
East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst, 2011-2015

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Simas Valley with Joe Scornaienchi, Wednesday, July 8, 5:30 pm. Meet inside fire gate 19-9 on Alhambra Valley Road (0.6 miles east of Castro Ranch Road). A San Pablo Creek Spawners Summer Nature Walk.

Kennedy Grove with Andrew Fowler and Gudrun Kleist, Wednesday, August 5, 5:30 pm. Meet at the Kennedy Grove

parking lot, 6531 San Pablo Dam Road in El Sobrante. A San Pablo Creek Spawners Summer Nature Walk.

Friends of Sausal Creek Annual Potluck Saturday, July 18. Help At The Wood Park Workday 10 am-noon. Meet & Greet Potluck Noon-2 pm.

NATIVE HERE MANAGER

Position open

Nursery Manager, Native Here Nursery

East Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society

Organization: Native Here Nursery, East Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society, 101 Golf Course Drive, Berkeley, CA 94708

Background: Native Here Nursery (NHN) is a project of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS). EBCNPS is a chapter of CNPS, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Founded in 1994, NHN is dedicated to growing plants propagated from materials collected in Alameda and Contra Costa counties for restoration and gardening projects. NHN is a premier nursery in the area devoted to local native flora. Conservation and restoration are at the heart of Native Here's mission, and the nursery depends on experienced and talented volunteers to operate efficiently. NHN also contributes to the broader community education mission of EBCNPS through a variety of programs.

Principle Duties & Responsibilities:

Manage all nursery operations and maintain structures and grounds

- Oversee recruitment and supervision of volunteers and any additional staff
- Provide excellent customer service in line with the EBCNPS mission
- Plan for and work with volunteers to produce plants for retail customers, restoration efforts, and public agencies
- Maintain healthy plants and nursery infrastructure
- Work with volunteers to plan and organize annual plant sales and events
- Secure all permits and agreements for operating the nursery and collecting activities
- Oversee nursery's finances, including bill payment, preparation of financial statements, and management of insurance and credit card arrangements
- Maintain nursery's outreach, including Facebook, Meet-up, and other publicity opportunities
- Nurture relationships with the EBRPD, State Parks, and other governmental and local municipalities, and with restoration contractors and groups concerned with native plant preservation and propagation
- Communicate effectively on a regular basis with chapter board and membership through both oral and written channels
- Contribute to broader goals of EBCNPS through outreach, communication, special events and development of new programs

Skills/Qualifications:

- Passionate about local native plants
- Self-motivated and able to work independently to complete tasks and meet deadlines
- Enjoy working with people and plants
- Skilled in interpersonal relationships and both oral and written communication
- Have a working knowledge of computer skills for word processing, database and spreadsheets
- Physically able to work outdoors, with uneven terrain, also including lifting and moving plants and nursery tools.

Desirable Skills/Qualifications:

- Experienced in seeking contracts for restoration activities
- Experienced in managing and coordinating volunteers
- Skilled at using social media, including Meet-Up and Facebook
- Degree in a related field of study or two years work experience in the field

Compensation and Benefits:

This is an hourly staff position, 20 hours per week. The rate of pay is \$16-\$20 per hour, based on qualifications and experience. A benefits package including health care is included. The start date is as early as July 1, 2015, but is negotiable depending on candidate availability.

Reports to:

President, EBCNPS Board of Directors

To Apply:

Send cover letter, resume and contact information for three professional references to spduckle@uci.edu. Review of applications begins immediately and continues until position is filled.

The California Native Plant Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

The Arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*) that we planted this winter are now hosting small, red galls. They may be caused by a sawfly wasp, which should hatch in late summer or in fall. We are thrilled that we are contributing to a habitat at Pt. Isabel that is attracting new residents!

Our progress on cleaning up and planting the City of Richmond Adopt-A-Spot (Central Avenue and Rydin Road) is having a noticeable impact on the public's perception of our work. This intersection is a busy spot and, whenever we are out there, we get many thumbs-up signs and thanks from those driving by.

In June, we welcomed more Berkeley High students to Pt. Isabel. They did fantastic work including using a small weed

wrench (with which they were already familiar thanks to their previous work with Save-the-Bay) to remove large and deeply rooted cheese weed plants. Pt. Isabel stewards and volunteers do amazing work at this site. These photos speak for themselves don't you think?

Thanks to our EBRPD Ranger, Bruce Adams, for his thoughtful and consistent support. And many thanks to Noah's Bagels (on Solano) for providing the work party volunteers with bagels and cream cheese.

Please come out and join us at our bi-monthly work parties (9:30 am July 4, and August 2 and 16)! (There is only one work party in July.)

Jane and Tom Kelly



MORE POINT ISABEL RESTORATION PHOTOS



Photos by Jane Kelly. On previous page, the June 15 crew, pulling a weed taller than you, Nina and an arroyo willow; on this page, young weeders, and a laying down a seed and weed barrier.



NATIVE HERE NURSERY: SUMMER TALKS

Native Here Nursery's 2015 "Sense of Place" Summer Talk Series to Focus on Water.

The Native Here Nursery is all about a *sense of place*: the plants are locally native, grown from seed and cuttings collected in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Featuring these plants in your garden links you to the insects, the birds, the soil types, the geography of this place where we live. And also to the climate, which is drought-prone, a characteristic with which we all now have first-hand experience.

The theme of water leads us to water conservation through talks on irrigation efficiency, no-irrigation native plant gardening, and "losing your lawn". The water theme also leads us

to consider East Bay plants that require the driest of habitats, and those that require the wettest of habitats, manzanitas and redwoods respectively. We will explore the theme of water and Sense of Place as part of the human experience in our East Bay landscape through poetry readings and music.

Time: 10:30 to noon

Location: Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Drive, Berkeley

See the Native Here Nursery website for more details (nativeherenursery.org).

Date	Title	Speaker	About the Speaker
July 11	Irrigation Efficiency	Seth Wright	Seth is a Landscape Contractor specializing in Irrigation Efficiency and has been in the landscape industry for 20 years.
July 18	Ecology of East Bay Redwoods	Emily Burns	Emily is Director of Science at Save the Redwoods League.
August 1	The Poetry of Water	Kirk Lumpkin, Host	Kirk, a poet, helped facilitate the Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival (with Poetry Flash and former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass) and regularly hosts poetry readings.
August 15	Lose Your Lawn	Bay Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition Educator	The Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with public agencies, the landscape industry, and property owners to reduce waste and pollution, conserve natural resources, and create vibrant landscapes and gardens.

SHEET MULCHING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHAPTER

Everyone with a water-thirsty lawn has been thinking hard about alternatives these days, and water districts are encouraging lawn replacement through rebates. Sheet mulching is a great way to start the process because it kills the lawn without resorting to herbicides, and it leaves in place valuable topsoil and organics. We would like to develop a program integrating lawn replacement with education about the use of native plants, incentives to use local natives – from Native Here Nursery, of course – and expertise in designing beautiful, functional, wildlife-friendly and biodiverse gardens – all while helping raise funds for the Chapter.

How can we do this? Lesley Hunt and I recently took a participation workshop on sheet mulching. We found it easier than an ordinary day as a weed warrior. We could organize crews to sheet mulch lawns, with the proceeds going to the Chapter. The homeowner, in addition to receiving a valuable service,

would also receive written materials providing education about using natives in landscaping, incentives and discounts for purchases at Native Here Nursery, and a portfolio of gardens and list of designers willing to commit to using at least 30 percent local natives in the new, low water use garden.

Would you like to help us? We need estimators, schedulers, publicists, and lots of people who are willing to spend a portion of their Saturday once in awhile to benefit our Chapter. No special skills are necessary. If you would like to find out more, we will hold an organizational meeting on Thursday, July 9 at 7:30 pm at Barbara Leitner's home – 2 Parkway Court, Orinda. Please join us!

Barbara Leitner and Lesley Hunt

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Join Friends of Albany Hill on the last Saturday of each month to eradicate invasives and pick up trash on Albany Hill, a city park covered with eucalyptus trees but harboring surprising biodiversity. Barbara Ertter, co-author of Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora, documented over 100 native plants on the hill and surrounding Cerrito Creek in 1999. Migrating monarch butterflies roost in the eucalyptus every year from September to March. Two UC entomologists documented over 100 species of moths and butterflies on the hill in the late 1990s, birdwatchers have counted over 50 species of birds, and over 50 species of bryophytes (mosses and related plants) have been found there. To get on our email list, contact Margot Cunningham at mailto:friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com

Saturdays, July 4, August 2, and August 16, Point Isabel, on the Bay Trail next to the dog park. Just off I-580 (take Central to the bottom of the I-580 overpass). At the stop sign (Rydin Road) turn right and come down to the end of the street. If you pass Costco on your right, you've gone too far. Contact info: Tom Kelly (510) 704-8628 (work), (510) 684-6484 (cell) or tkelly@kyotousa.org.

Garber Park July-August Habitat Restoration Workdays: Tuesday, July 6 and Saturday, July 25; Tuesday, August 4 and Saturday August 22. 10 am-noon. Join us as we continue removing fire prone invasive weeds in Garber. Meet at the Claremont Ave. entrance to Garber where we will continue our push to clear Algerian ivy from the parking area, along the trail, and in Fern Glade. For those who enjoy working on steep slopes the Evergreen Restoration Site needs your help in removing poison hemlock and erhardta grass. Wear long sleeves and pants, shoes with good tread, and bring a water bottle. We provide water, snacks, tools, and gloves. For directions (public transportation and car), maps and further information visit www.garberparkstewards.org or contact Shelagh garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Shelagh Brodersen Volunteer Coordinator, Garber Park Stewards Email: garberparkstewards@gmail.com Tel: 510-540-1918 Blog: www.garberparkstewards.org

Saturday, July 18, Wood Park Workday 10 am to noon, Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) Annual Meet & Greet Potluck noon to 2 pm Come early for the neighborhood workday, stay for this annual get together that brings together native plant lovers, community leaders, and FOSC volunteers, board members, and staff. Wood Park is located just below I-580 north of Fruitvale Avenue in Oakland. See www.sausalcreek.org >Programs > Event Calendar for details, including directions and a flyer.

Sundays, July 26 and August 30, 10 am to 2 pm, Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) Trail Stewardship Crew Join FOSC's new monthly crew to restore trails in Dimond Canyon and Joaquin Miller Park. See www.sausalcreek.org > Programs > Event Calendar for details on each workday.

Saturday, July 25, 2015 from 8:30 am to 1 pm, starting at the Stamm Unit and ending at the Antioch Public library, we are planning a 4.5 hour bioblitz at Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge (ADNWR). On the iNaturalist link <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/antioch-dunes-national-wildlife-refuge-bioblitz> for this event, it says:

"A Bio-Blitz is an intensive one-day study of biodiversity in a specific location, bringing scientists and volunteer citizen-scientists together. We'll look for birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies, insects, spiders, trees, flowers, and mushrooms, even slime molds! You bring your smart phone and tons of enthusiasm. We'll rally some experts and folks who know the area. Together we'll make some science!" Any of you fine folks can blitz on your own, lead small groups of bliters around a designated area of Stamm Unit or both. It's up to you, but please let me know if you are interested in doing any of these.

Schedule: 8:30 am to 9:00 am, intros and background about ADNWR, why we are having a bioblitz, what we hope to accomplish with citizen scientists, directions on what to do, and area assignments handed out.

9:00 am to 11:30 am, bioblitz with photography

11:30 am to 12:00 pm, head over to Antioch Library at 501 W. 18th Street, Antioch, 94509

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, light refreshments provided. Download photos to INaturalist (free wifi) and wrap up session.

How to register for free Bioblitz: <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/antioch-dunes-national-wildlife-refuge-bioblitz>

Don't forget to download the INaturalist app: Android App on Google Play or App Store on iTunes for Apple.

Susan Ewing US Fish and Wildlife Service Antioch Dunes NWR/Alameda Point P.O. Box 159 Alameda CA 94501 (510) 521-9716 susan_euing@yahoo.com

Sunol Stewards, Sunol Regional Wilderness - Old Green Barn Visitor Center

Protect tarantula habitat! Help Sunol fight the spread of invasive stinkwort and orchard grass while learning about the park's native plants and animals. Tough gloves and treats provided. For more information, call Naturalist Katie Colbert at (510) 544-3243 or email kcolbert@ebparks.org. Registration is required; follow links below to register, or call 888-EBPARKS, Option 2, and reference the course number.

Saturday July 25, 10am-noon, Course # 9854

Sunday August 16, 10am-noon, Course # 10263

Saturday September 5, 10am-noon, Course # 10463

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bleitner@pacbell.net

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list

Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events

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mlbooz@calnatives.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Theo Fitaniades
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Native Here inventory specialist
Brent Hopkins

Plant Fair

vacant

Restoration

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janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Point Isabel

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John Muir NHS (Martinez)

Elaine Jackson, leader
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elainejx@att.net

Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
ldhunt@astound.net

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Membership category:

- Individual, \$45
- Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
- Plant lover, \$100
- Patron, \$300
- Benefactor, \$600
- Mariposa Lily, \$1500
- Limited Income or student, \$25.00
- Other _____

I wish to affiliate with:

- East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)
- Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816